

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 19 were originally pending in this application. Claim 3 was previously cancelled. In response to the November 3, 2006 Final Office Action, claims 1, 6 and 8 have been amended herein and claim 7 has been canceled. Thus, claims 1, 2, 4 – 6 and 8 remain in this application. No new matter has been added.

Claim Objections

Claims 1 and 6 were objected to due to certain informalities. With the Examiner's comments in mind, Applicant has amended claims 1 and 6 to correct the informalities noted. Additionally, claim 8 was also amended to correct a similar informality. Attorney for applicant apologizes for these informalities.

Claim Rejections

35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

Claims 1, 2, 4 – 6 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being unpatentable over the Morrison et al. '251 patent. Claims 1, 2, 4 – 6 and 8 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being unpatentable over the Fujii et al. '498 patent.

Alternatively, claims 1, 2, 4 – 6 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Morrison et al. '251 patent. Likewise, Claims 1, 2, 4 – 6 and 8 were also alternatively rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Fujii et al. '498 patent.

However, the Examiner indicated that claim 7 was merely objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all

of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. With the Examiner's comments in mind, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations formerly set forth in claim 7. Claim 7 has been canceled.

Argument

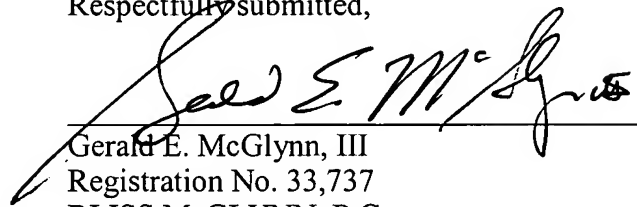
Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 1 recites structure that is not disclosed or suggested by the prior art and are patentably distinguishable from the subject matter of the references of record in this case. Claims 2, 4 – 6 and 8 are each ultimately dependent upon independent claim 1 and add further perfecting limitations. As such, the prior art references in combination, or each reference standing alone, do not suggest the subject invention as defined in these claims. However, and even if they did, they could only be applied through hindsight after restructuring the disclosures of the prior art in view of applicant's invention. In this case, a combination of the prior art to derive applicant's invention would, in and of itself, be an invention.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the amendments made herein comply with the requirements of form expressly set forth in the previous office action. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests that this amendment be admitted pursuant to 37 CFR 1.116 and that the rejections previously advanced be withdrawn.

Finally, applicant respectfully maintains that the claims, as amended, clearly distinguish over the prior art and are therefore allowable. Accordingly, applicant respectfully solicits the allowance of claims 1, 2, 4 – 6, and 8 pending in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerald E. McGlynn, III", is written over a horizontal line.

Gerald E. McGlynn, III
Registration No. 33,737
BLISS McGLYNN, P.C.
2075 W. Big Beaver, Suite 600
Troy, MI 48084
Phone: (248) 649-6090
Fax: (248) 649-6299
Email: gemcglynn@ipdirection.com

Date: February 1, 2007
Attorney Docket No.: 8714.00002